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LabLink

Director, Bureau of Laboratories
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this issue...

Free In-person Packaging and Shipping Classes for Clinical Specimens	2
National Award Recognition at MDHHS BOL	3

Bureau Vision

The Bureau of Laboratories is a stronger, more diverse team within an integrated public health system. We utilize advanced technology and innovative leadership to provide comprehensive public health services in our dynamic global community.

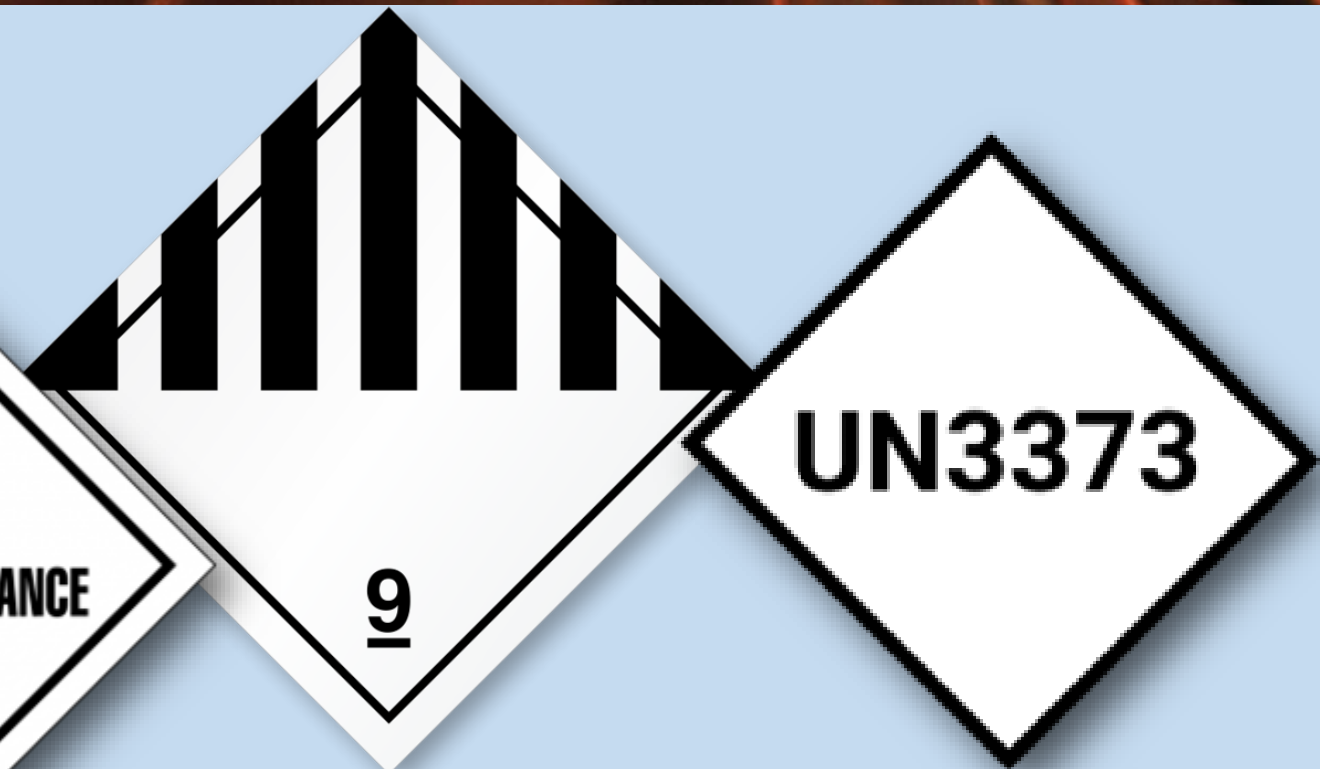
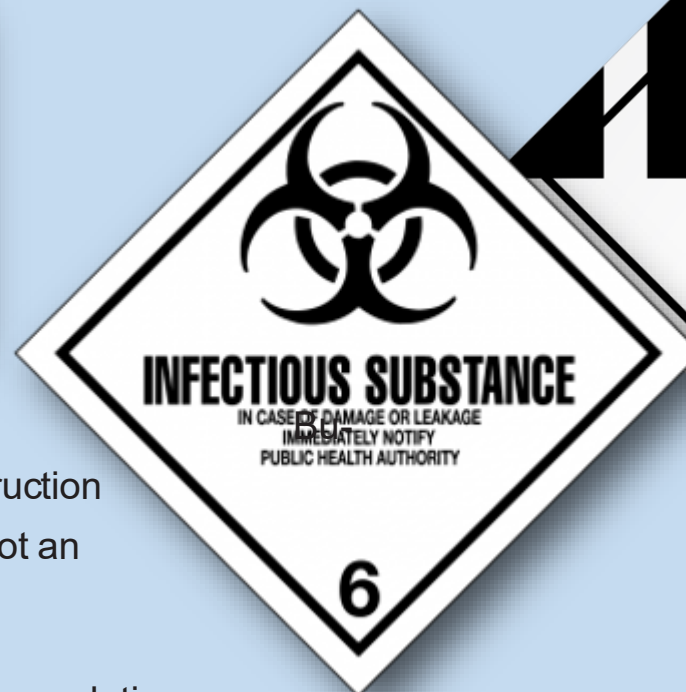
Bureau Mission

We are dedicated to continuing leadership in providing quality laboratory science for healthier people and communities through partnerships, communication and technical innovation.



MDHHS BOL Offers Free Packaging and Shipping Classes

Author: Jason Wholehan, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Bioterrorism Training Coordinator



**BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE
CATEGORY B**

With the loosening of some statewide COVID restrictions, the Bureau of Laboratories is prepared for a return to in-person instruction for Packaging and Shipping courses. If in-person instruction is not an option for your facility, live virtual classes can be arranged.

This intermediate level course offers students an overview of the regulations governing packaging, marking, labeling, and documentation needed for the safe transport of clinical samples. This course provides the participant with a comprehensive overview of Federal (DOT and USPS) and International (IATA) regulations applicable to packaging and shipping of clinical laboratory specimens. It is designed to facilitate certification of employees to meet federal dangerous goods shipping regulations in collaboration with employer training requirements.

The class format will be a 1.5 hour interactive lecture and is suitable for those looking for initial and recurrent training certification needs. Time will be available for questions and answers.

As always, this course is offered free of charge to any clinical partner throughout the State of Michigan. If you are interested in scheduling a session, please email Jason Wholehan at wholehanj@michigan.gov or contact by telephone, 517-335-9653.



Shannon Sharp, National Award Recognition

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Workforce Development Committee (WDC) selected Shannon Sharp as the recipient of the APHL 2021 Thomas E. Maxson Education, Training, and Workforce Development Award. This award was in recognition of Shannon's outstanding contributions to public health laboratory continuing education and workforce development.

The Maxson Education, Training & Workforce Development Award was established in 1998 in memory of Dr. Thomas E. Maxson, who was the director of the Kentucky Public Health Laboratory from 1987 to 1998, a key contributor to the development of the Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) fellowship program, member of the Workforce Development Committee, and the APHL Board of Directors. It is that same spirit of commitment and passion that was evident in Shannon's drive to provide relevant and timely resources, tools, and best practices to support and advance workforce development of the public health laboratory community of practice.

Shannon Sharp, MT(ASCP)SBB had an extensive career in clinical laboratory work before she began her employment at the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL), where she served as the Bioterrorism Training Coordinator for over five years. Her clinical lab experience, along with her infectiously positive attitude and enthusiasm, allowed her to hit the ground running when she began her work in public health. Shannon was an active member of the APHL Sentinel Laboratory Training Collaborative Workgroup, a member of the APHL Sentinel Laboratory Partnerships and Outreach Subcommittee since November 2016, and a member of the APHL Public Health Preparedness and Response Committee since July 2020.

Some of the work she did while at the MDHHS BOL included the development of extensive, statewide, in-person packaging and shipping training courses that she regularly delivered statewide for clinical labs. She was able to convert this training to a virtual format in response to COVID-19. Shannon helped the BOL create several

"just-in-time" trainings related to COVID-19 response, and simultaneously maintaining her responsibility of ensuring laboratory biothreat preparedness. Throughout her engagement with APHL, she helped create and refine many sentinel laboratory resources such as the Biothreat Agent rule-out or refer bench cards and poster, and the Clinical Laboratory Exposure Assessment and Symptom Monitoring tool which is expected to be released in 2021.

Shannon Sharp unexpectedly passed away January 10th, 2021 and although she is no longer with us, her contributions to public health laboratory outreach and education as the Bioterrorism Training Coordinator for the BOL remain to remind us of the joy she brought to her work and to those of us who had the great privilege of knowing her.



Shannon L. Sharp



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